

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O Fortunes nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae. VINO.

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AGRICULTURAL.

ANNAPOLIS, January 1st, 1820.

DEAR SIR,—In pursuance of a resolve of the Agricultural Society of Maryland, at their anniversary meeting, held on the 15th of December, in the chamber of the House of Delegates, I transmit, for publication in your useful and widely circulating paper, the address of Virgil Maxcy, Esq. delivered to them, and to a large assemblage, composed of officers of Government, members of the General Assembly, and ladies and gentlemen from the city, and from various parts of the state.—Also, the communication from Dr. Joseph E. Muse, on the *modus operandi* of Plaster of Paris.

H. MAYNARD, President of the
Agricultural Society of Maryland.

PROCEEDINGS]

OF THE

AGRICULTURAL

SOCIETY OF MARYLAND.

The Agricultural Society of Maryland agreeably to the provisions of their constitution, met in the city of Annapolis, on Wednesday, the 15th instant. After the usual business was transacted, the President presented to the Society a communication from Dr. Joseph E. Muse, of Dorchester county, Md. on the *modus operandi* of gypsum, which was read. The Society resolved that the President request the editors of the American Farmer, Maryland Gazette, and Maryland Republican, to publish in their respective papers, Dr. Muse's learned and very ingenious communication.

Judges were appointed to examine the articles offered for exhibition, who awarded premiums to the following persons:

To Mr. Jonathan S. Eastman, for his improved straw cutter. This instrument was so much approved of, that the patent right for Anne Arundel county was purchased by a company of gentlemen present.

To Mr. Arthur T. Jones, of the Eastern Shore of Md. for an instrument, consisting of a plough and harrow united, well calculated for putting in grain on corn ground.

To Mr. Christopher Jackson, for a bull, 2 years old, of a good size and fine proportion.

To Mrs. James M'Cubbin, for the best woollen carpet.

To Mrs. Watkins, for a piece of very good carpeting.

To Mrs. Hart, for a fine rug, of good materials and handsome colours.

To Mrs. Sears, for the same.

To Mrs. Frances Fowler, for the same.

To Miss Stalling, for an excellent counterpane, and some fine vest patterns.

To Mrs. Gambrell, for a counterpane very fine and of handsome figure.

To Miss E. Murdock, for a down hat, ingeniously made and handsomely decorated.

To Mrs. Eliza Warfield, for the best wollen stockings and gloves.

To Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, for a pair of uncommon fine knit cotton stockings.

Mr. Thomas Chase exhibited some very large cauliflower flowers, from his farm, near Annapolis; one of which weighed 19 lbs. with leaves, and 7 lbs. when stripped of them.

Some of Wood's patent ploughs, made at the foundry of general John Mason, near Georgetown, were exhibited. These ploughs were highly thought of on account of the ease with which the beam might be raised or lowered, and particularly on account of the excellent form of the cast iron mould board.

At two o'clock the society adjourned, and assembled again at 5 o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of hearing an address, delivered by Virgil Maxcy, Esq. member of the society, in the Chamber of the House of Delegates, agreeably to a request made by the Society at their last meeting. After Mr. Maxcy had concluded, the following resolutions were proposed and assented to.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to Mr. Maxcy, for the able and eloquent address delivered before them.

Resolved, That the Secretary apply to Mr. Maxcy for permission to publish his address, and if it be obtained, to cause two hundred copies of the said address to be published for distribution, under the direction of the President.

Resolved, That the President be requested to transmit copies of the address to the editors of the American Farmer, the Maryland Gazette, and the Maryland Republican, for publication in their papers respectively.

T. H. CARROLL, Sec'y.

ADDRESS, &c.

Gentlemen of the Agricultural Society of Maryland.

Having been requested to deliver an address at this anniversary meeting, I have thought it best, after a few preliminary remarks upon the relative importance of Agriculture, in comparison with other pursuits, to invite your attention to a brief view of its condition in Maryland, and to an examination of the means, by which individuals, as well as the Legislature, may most effectually contribute to its improvement, which has now become equally essential to the welfare of the Agricultural class and the general prosperity of the state.

Political writers have from the beginning, differed with respect to the sources of the wealth of nations, some attributing it to Agriculture, some to commerce, some to manufactures, and others to labour and capital employed in all three. The last appears to me to be the true theory: for Agriculture originates, manufacture improves, and commerce gives value by creating demand, while labour and capital stimulate all. But however variant opinions may have been or still are with respect to these several hypotheses, all must agree that whatever may be the value imparted by the labour and ingenuity of man to the productions of nature, the earth is the original parent of them all. Agriculture is the art, by which these productions are multiplied, so as to meet the wants of civilized men. Most of these wants are common to all,—to the agriculturist, the manufacturer and the seaman, as well as to the artist, the man of letters and the statesman. As all equally derived their origin from the earth, all are equally dependent upon it for their subsistence and accommodation. However then commerce and manufactures may polish the shaft, or learning and the fine arts may decorate the capital, it is agriculture, which forms the deep and solid base, on which the column of civilized society reposes.

Agriculture is an unobtrusive art. It performs its silent labours in retirement and out of the view of the multitude: On the other hand the arts throng the cities and bustle in the crowd; while commerce, appropriating the products of both, hoists its gaudy flag, spreads its swelling sail, traverses the globe, and challenges the gaze of men in opposite hemispheres.

Nations, as well as individuals, are governed by external appearances and first impressions, until philosophy, by teaching them to think, enables them to trace effects to their true causes and to assign to them their relative importance. Hence commerce, from the display it makes before the eyes of men, was generally considered the first and greatest agent in the productions of national wealth, and manufactures were ranked next, whilst modest agriculture, hidden in the privacy of the country, was forgotten, or if remembered, was remembered only to be undervalued or despised. Agriculture therefore in Europe, even half a century ago, formed the occupation almost exclusively of the lowest order of the people, without knowledge to enlighten, or capital to enable them to improve. Of later years, however, since Political economy has assumed the form of a science and has caused statesmen to be more sensible of the importance of an improved state of agriculture, it has attracted more attention from the better informed and wealthier classes of society, it has excited the inquiry of the learned, and is at length beginning to obtain that degree of consideration, which its importance so justly demands.

In England nothing has had a more powerful effect in attracting to it the public notice, than the establishment of agricultural societies. Many patriotic men of rank, fortune, learning and talents, gave them their closest attention, and, by their personal example, drew to them the regard and respect of that class of people, who had the means of undertaking improvements upon an enlarged and liberal scale. A general emulation was excited amongst the country gentlemen; public opinion became enlightened; the government felt its influence; and, at length listening to the able representations of that patriot farmer, Sir John Sinclair, established the British Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement.—This board, while it serves as a centre of information to inquiring agriculturists, performs the same office to the government, and points out to it such measures, as are best calculated to promote their prosperity. Under the combined influence of this board, and of the numerous societies in all parts of the country, agriculture has been inspired with new spirit and activity. Men of speculative minds have begun to investigate, statesmen to examine, and political philosophers to analyze, with a deeper scrutiny, the sources of England's power; and, to the utter astonishment of all, it has been ascertained, that wide spread as is her commerce, and extensive as are her manufactures, it is to her agriculture more than to both, she was indebted for the support of her system of public credit; a system whose amazing energy enabled her singly to breast the furious and towering flood of united Europe's rage, and finally to roll back its agitated waves over the head of the potent Prospero, whose magic had raised them!

This fact, extraordinary and surprising as it may appear, has been proved beyond a doubt by the result of the tax, which was levied indiscriminately upon all classes of the people having an income of more than 50*l.* sterling per annum. The proceeds of that tax from the proprietors and occupiers of land were 6,433,475*l.* The proceeds of it from all other classes, merchants, manufacturers, office holders, professional men, &c. were only 3,021,187*l.* Less than one half the amount, received from the agricultural class.

The number of proprietors and occupiers of land,

who came within the operation of the income tax, was three times as large as that of all other classes together.*

As in political calculations it is proper to consider all men, as ending the amount of their income; it is also fair to consider them as paying indirect taxes in proportion to their expenditure. And as a vast deal of commercial property escapes direct taxation, we may without fear of error take it for granted that the agricultural class, in relation to their property, pay far more than their just proportion of the direct taxes. We may then safely conclude, that at least three-fourth of the vast revenue of Great Britain is derived, directly or indirectly, from the owners and cultivators of the soil. And in her darkest hour, when invasion threatened all her coasts, when thick gathering perils appalled the merchant and the fund-holder in the midst of London, where but among the yeomanry of the country were found the fearless hearts and toil strung arms, that presented an impenetrable barrier to her foes.

If such then be the relative importance of agriculture and the portion of her population engaged in it in Great Britain, whose commerce and manufactures are so extensive, but whose whole territory is almost equalled by several of our single states, of how much greater consequence is agriculture or the agricultural class in the United States, whose territory stretches from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean? If agriculture be the nerve of England's power and the source of her wealth, and if commerce and manufactures, even there, are merely useful hand maids, to distribute, improve, convert into other forms, or consume its products, of how much greater importance must it be in all points of view to our country? And who shall calculate the limits of its wealth and prosperity, its grandeur and power, should the people adopt, throughout its almost unlimited territory, an improved and enlightened system of cultivation?

Massachusetts and New York, since the termination of the late war, have set a good example for the imitation of their sister states, by enacting laws for the direct encouragement of improvement in agriculture. By the provisions of their acts, a sum of money, proportioned to the amount, that may be raised by an agricultural society in each county, is ordered to be paid to it out of the treasury, to be distributed in premiums under its direction.† In several other states, societies own their origin and progress to the public spirit of individuals. A circumstance, worthy of notice, which, while it is gratifying to the friends of the plough, is at the same time illustrative of the simple habits and manners of our country, is, that citizens of the highest distinction have not only given the countenance of their name and character to these useful associations, but have accepted appointments in them, requiring active duty, and taken a leading part in their management.‡

No state in the union would derive greater benefit from the establishment of such societies and from a diffusion of correct information on agricultural subjects, and rural economy than Maryland.

* Vide Sir John Sinclair's Code of Agriculture pages 343, 345.

† For the New York act—See No. 20, page 155, of the American Farmer.—Editor.

‡ In evidence of this fact, may be cited, amongst many other honourable example, the addresses of Mr. Madison, late President of the United States, now President of the Agricultural Society of Albemarle county, in Virginia.—Of Col. Pickering, once Secretary of war, afterwards Secretary of State, and now President of an Agricultural Society in Massachusetts.—Of General Davie, formerly minister to France, now President of the Agricultural Society of South Carolina.—And of Major General Brown, who is now at the head of our army, and whose late speech before a agricultural society in the state of New York, of which he is Vice President, is distinguished by a vigour and energy of thought and expression, at once characteristic of his mind and profession.

In the Conococheague and Monocacy valleys, and in some other parts of the northern counties of the state, a good system of husbandry is established and excellent practices prevail; but in the southern parts of the state on either side of the Chesapeake, agriculture languishes in the most wretched condition. On the Eastern shore a severe course of cropping, without a judicious rotation, has reduced a soil, originally fertile, to a state of sterility. If here and there you come direct to a farm or neighborhood, where better habits prevail and an improving system of cultivation has, in part, restored the original productiveness of the land, your eyes are regaled with the same sort, tho' not the same degree, of pleasure, with which a wanderer hails the spots of green on the the desert of the East.

Nor do the lower counties of the western shore exhibit a more exhilarating prospect. This is generally a waving country, blest with a soil originally fertile, covered with the noblest forests, and intersected with navigable streams and creeks, falling either into the great Chesapeake or Potomac, and affording the easiest and cheapest means of transporting its produce to market. Look over the map of the United States, may of the world, and you will hardly find a spot, where the choicest advantages for successful agriculture have been so bountifully showered by a beneficent providence, as upon this tract of country. And yet what a melancholy prospect does it now exhibit! The original settlers first cleared a corn field in the forest, next a tobacco lot, and cultivated both with successive crops of the same articles, until their powers of reproduction being completely exhausted, resort was again had to the forest, and a new corn field and a new tobacco lot were cleared. The same process was repeated, until almost the whole of this highly favoured region was spoiled of its valuable wood and timber. Shallow cultivation came in aid of this system of destruction by fire and axe. The plough, the greatest blessing, when properly used, ever bestowed by the inventive powers of man upon the human race, became a more powerful auxiliary in effecting this scene of desolation. When the plough sinks deep the loosened earth absorbs the heaviest rains and preserves the moisture for the nourishment of the crop, if drought succeeds; but when it stirs the surface only the light top soil becomes fluid at a copious or sudden fall of rain, and both soil and water are precipitated from the hills to the creeks and branches below. Whenever fertility was by these means completely destroyed, the fields was thrown out of cultivation; stunted pines uniformly succeeded to the occupation of land, originally covered by the finest oak, hickory, beech and poplar; and wherever a few of the latter have escaped destruction, they serve, beside their dwarfish neighbours, as monuments of the magnificent bounty of God, in melancholy contrast with the thoughtless improvidence of man!

This gloomy picture is but too faithful a representation of this interesting portion of our state. 'Tis true, there are scattered in different parts of it, enterprising, intelligent and spirited individuals, whose husbandry would do credit to Frederick and Washington counties. But though the improvements, which they have made, have doubled the produce and value of their lands, and their efforts have been crowned with the most distinguished success, their example has had but little effect in reforming the habits of the country in general. These habits must finally reduce those, who indulge in them, to poverty, and banish them from their homes.

And must this beautiful region be deserted? are its inhabitants doomed to join in the current of western emigration, and leave abodes endeared to them by a thousand tender recollections? And must the hospitable fires of the Eastern shore be distinguished? Shall that social, warm hearted and generous people be compelled to seek new and more fertile lands in the south or the west, while in deep-felt sadness they cast many a "longing, lingering look behind" upon the receding homes of their childhood?

I trust not. I confidently hope, that the spirit of improvement which has totally changed the face of the country and the condition of the people in other parts

of the state, will extend to them. An enlightened system of agriculture is all that is wanting. The means of improvement are at hand on both shores. Let the marl beds, which abound on the Chesapeake, be explored and spread upon the fields.—Let the plough be driven deeper into their surface.—Let Gypsum stimulate the sleeping energies of a soil newly turned up to the fertilizing dews and atmosphere of Heaven.—Let clover and other improving crops restore to the exhausted earth the vegetable matter indispensable to fertility.—Let the rich soil, washed from the hills into the low grounds and branches, be hauled to the farm yard and mixed with the offal of the cattle.—Let the sea-ware, which every tide drives upon the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, and lime so easily procured from its inexhaustible banks of marine shells, be spread upon the fallows and mixed with the soil. But above all, let agricultural societies be formed in every county in the state. These when conducted with zeal, are most powerful agents for the introduction of the good practices I have enumerated, and for the dissemination of information, derived from experience; for the overthrow of errors and the establishment of useful truths; for the excitement and maintenance of a generous emulation among agriculturists; for inspiring a strong desire for the distinction and reward, which excellence in their art will confer;—in a word, for adding to the all pervading impulse of interest, the ennobling stimulus of ambition. The planter and the farmer, in common with all other human beings, acknowledge the dominion of this powerful principle: but the circumstances of their lives bring it but seldom into operation. The lawyer, the physician, the manufacturer and the mechanic, exercise their professions in the presence of witnesses; their respective skill becomes the subject of comparison in the city or neighborhood, where they reside; and they immediately feel the result of that comparison in the increase or diminution of their profits as well as reputation. On the contrary, the agriculturist has rarely a witness of his labours to excite his pride, or amend his practice by the communication of useful knowledge. This is the great and predominant cause of the slow progress of improvement in Husbandry and rural Economy. Agricultural associations are the most obvious as well as most effectual means of removing this cause. They bring to light the merit of good cultivators, and, while they reward the deserving, they instruct and stimulate the ignorant. By means of cattle shows, ploughing matches, and exhibitions of produce, stock, and implements of husbandry, they bring together those, who are interested in agriculture, for purposes connected with their pursuits. Information of various practices is communicated from one to another; conflicting opinions excite discussion, inquiry and experiment; the knowledge of each becomes common to all, and a general desire of improvement is encouraged and diffused.—The prudence, which deters the cultivator from adopting new practices, which may result in embarrassment no longer prevents their reception when the success of others has established their safety and utility. This success is made known at such meetings and invites imitation. New and more profitable modes of culture are thus introduced, and a general melioration of the condition of agriculturists takes place.

If these reasons be not sufficient to satisfy every one of the utility of Agricultural Societies, let me call your attention to the example of such nations, as have encouraged and multiplied them. The best and most intelligent writers upon agriculture in France, Germany, England and Scotland, attribute the rapid improvement of those countries to the efforts and influence of such associations. There is now scarcely a district of any extent or importance in Great Britain, which has not its agricultural society. Such associations first diffused a spirit, that led to the establishment of the British Board of agriculture and internal improvement; and that in return has caused the formation of more agricultural societies, than ever before existed in any nation in any age. This Board collects in a focus all the rays of knowledge, emanating from these numerous bodies, while each of them in return receives from it the concentrated intelligence

of all the others, and brings it within the reach of every individual in the kingdom, desirous of acquiring it. Agriculture in that commercial and manufacturing country is now gaining its share of the public attention and regard, which have hitherto been bestowed exclusively on commerce and manufactures, and is attaining the rank and dignity, to which it is intrinsically entitled. Shall it be held in less estimation, and its improvement be deemed of less importance in this great agricultural country? Enterprise seems to be the persiding genius of our people. His giant foot-prints are visible in every part of our broad territory. Having, with a magical rapidity, settled the country and built up the cities of the Atlantic he has transcended the Alleghany; he has levelled the forests of the vast extent on this side of the Mississippi; he has planted there villages and populous towns; he has crossed that monarch river of the west, and now explores the interminable regions of the Missouri. Shall he become the destroying demon or the beneficent deity of the country, he has uncovered to the sun? Shall he scourge the fertile soil, till sterility and its attendant poverty succeeded, or shall he, by a judicious system of cultivation, preserve forever its original productiveness?

This is a question of the greatest magnitude to those parts of this vast empire, which are still unexhausted. But a question of still nearer interest to Maryland forces itself on the mind. How shall fertility be restored to its worn out soil and depopulation be prevented? Some of the means depending upon individual exertions, and some efforts of agricultural societies, I have already attempted to point out; but much, in aid of them, may be done by the government of the state.

It is essential to the prosperity of the cultivators of the soil, that they should have access to markets where such prices may be obtained, as will repay past labour and encourage reproduction. In reference to this object, the utility of good roads, bridges, railways, and canals, and the removal of obstructions in rivers and creeks, is too obvious to require a single remark to illustrate it.

Great undertakings of this sort, where several states are concerned and where rival interests may excite jealousies and present obstacles, seem properly to belong to the general government. Had the plan of that profound and eloquent statesman, who presides over the war department, for the establishment of a fund for internal improvements succeeded, many of those now present might have lived to see national Highways and national Canals, intersecting our great country in all important directions, facilitating communication between all its parts, and forming those bonds of connection, that have now, since the application of steam to the purposes of navigation, become more necessary than ever to the preservation of the union. However desirable to this country independence of foreign nations for necessities, conveniences, or even luxuries may be, all must acknowledge, that a mutual independence between our different states for the promotion of their prosperity is, the strongest tie that can bind them together. The course of commerce, which has heretofore made the Atlantic cities the market of the productions of the West, and the source from which it derived supplies of foreign goods, constituted the most powerful ligament between them. Should steam navigation on the Mississippi ever be able to supply the vast regions, from which it gathers its waters, with the products of foreign commerce, at a cheaper rate than they can be afforded by the Atlantic cities across the mountains, and should New Orleans or some other city, on that river, become the great mart of their agricultural produce this ligament is burst asunder,—and a patriot might well tremble at the agitation of any question, involving a real or even an apparent conflict of interest between the people residing on the different sides of the Alleghany. In such an event, that great ridge, instead of being what it has been emphatically styled the "back-bone of the United States," which no human strength can break, no sword can sever," might become the barrier between two hostile empires. To prevent so calamitous a result, no means are so well adapted as the establishment of roads and canals.

And who, in this inventive age, shall despair of seeing the day when steam, applied to carriages upon rail ways, shall perform prodigies on land, that will rival those, which it has already exhibited on the water.

Had the General Government adopted the proposed plan of Internal Improvement, the offspring of a wise forecast, that looked to distant political as well as commercial results, no state in the Union would have derived so much benefit from it as Maryland. The waters of the Potowmac approach nearer to streams, that intersect the Western Country, than any other river of the United States. To remove the obstacles to its navigation would probably have been the first object that would have attracted the attention of the General Government. One of the next would probably have been the completion of the best communication by land between the West and our great Commercial Capital. These objects effected, Washington and Baltimore would have become the great marts of Western trade.

We might moreover have expected to see the waters of the Eastern Branch, connected by a canal with the waters of the Patapsco; and the Chesapeake, joined to the Delaware. The greater part of the state might then have had a choice of the three markets, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia. How great a stimulus this would have been to our agriculture, is more easily imagined than told.

The General Government, however, have declined entering into this career of Internal Improvement, and have thereby devolved that important duty upon the several states in their separate capacities.

New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and several other states, have engaged in it with a spirit, highly honorable to themselves, and worthy the imitation of all the others.

Shall Maryland be indifferent to these noble examples? Shall the witness unmoved, the gigantic efforts of New York, now cutting through her territory a canal of nearly three hundred miles, which by opening a vast extent of fertile country to a market, will invigorate her agriculture, and by the junction of the Hudson with the lakes, draw off to her chief commercial city a part at least of that western trade, which proper exertions might retain to ours? Shall she be insensible to the example set her, still nearer home, by her neighbour Virginia, whose Board of Public works are not only planing canals, and removing obstacles to navigation from her rivers and creeks, for the benefit of the country adjacent to them, but are extending their views farther, and inquiring into the practicability of a water communication with the west? Shall she too rob us of a portion of the Western trade? And can we look with indifference upon the strenuous exertions of our jealous rival Pennsylvania, to accomplish the same object? In a competition for the western trade, nature has given us the advantage, in the geographical position of our territory, and if we lose it, it will be entirely owing to our own listless negligence.* Will it be said, that we have contributed large sums of money for making the Potowmac navigable; that we have incorporated several canal and road companies, that we have devoted the bonus, which might have been demanded for a renewal of the Bank charter to the completion of a turnpike to join the great national western road; and pledged the proceeds of two annual State Lotteries, as a fund for making internal improvements, for the promotion of literature and science, and the establishment of benevolent institutions. All these measures certainly merit approbation; but more ought to be done. An ample fund, immediately productive, ought to be created and pledged for these all important purposes, so intimately connected with the character, dignity and prosperity of the state.

May we not be allowed to hope, that the wisdom of the General Assembly, many of whose members have honoured our meeting this evening by their presence, will be directed to the accomplishments of these interesting objects? By adopting such measures as will

* Vide an able pamphlet, published last year by a late member of the executive council, entitled "Remarks on the intercourse with the western country."

effectually attain them, they will give themselves an incontestible title to the lasting gratitude of an enlightened people; for such measures, aided by the influence, example and intelligence of such societies throughout the state, as you, gentlemen, have formed in this, its ancient capital, will revive its drooping agriculture: will lay the foundation of a permanent prosperity, by restoring fertility to the districts now worn out by a destructive system of cultivation; will check those ever-flowing currents of emigration to the south and west, which are constantly thinning the population of many parts of the state; will thereby increase our numbers, and of course our relative political weight in the great national family; and what is of at least equal consequence, will elevate the character of our state, will add dignity to its name, and challenge the respect and applause of the Union. Should such a course of measures be heartily adopted and vigorously pursued a new era will open upon Maryland; she will take a high stand among her sister states, her citizens will feel a conscious pride in her character, and the lofty patriotic state feeling, which will ensue will carry her, through a long course of liberty and honor, to the farthest goal of wealth, prosperity and happiness.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF ALBEMARLE.

ON MANURING FOR WHEAT.

No. 6.

SIR,

The following account of a manuring for wheat upon fallows, I have thought worth giving to the society, being persuaded that facts, accompanied with a detail of all circumstances likely to influence results, are a more valuable kind of information, than the most ingenious commentaries.

In the summer of 1817, I fallowed eight acres of poor, high land, known in this part of the country by the denomination of Barrens and unaided by manure, I think would not have produced more than eight bushels to the acre, with the most favourable seasons. Having but the small quantity of manure that was made upon the farm, and an adjoining plantation, between the time of carting of the contents of the farm yard in the spring, and the season of wheat sowing; (it is proper here to remark, that it was chiefly of the strongest kinds, the greater part of it being made from the stables.) I determined it was safest to err, rather upon the side of giving it too much, than too little extension; I therefore checked off the land with a plough 23 1-2 yards by 17 1-2, putting a load into the centre of each square, which gives precisely 12 loads to the acre; the manure was carted out just in time to plough it in before seeding—the cart used carried between 25 and 30 bushels only at a load, the manure was better rotted than it usually is at this age, from being placed in a stercorary, which kept it moist with the muck-water that settled at its bottom—the seeding was commenced on the 5th of October, and finished the 7th—put it in with harrows on the second ploughing.

Seeded one bushel to the acre—and the

produce was *twenty bushels to the acre*, the wheat was of the kind known with us under the name of the Yellow Bearded.

J. H. COOKE.

P. MINOR, Esq.

Sec'y of the Agril. Society of Albemarle.

FROM THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.

Five Minutes Reflection on Sheep.

This valuable animal has been much neglected, and little understood in our part of the country, Virginia and Maryland, where I have only known it. The introduction of the Merinos will, it is to be hoped, do good by, at least, awakening the attention of the community to the better care of one of the best stocks we possess. I do not mean here to speak of the relative fineness of wool, but to drop a few hints as to the rearing of that estimable material. This can only be done by the due cultivation of the soil, on which it is propagated—the back of the sheep.

I have been myself for years, in common with my neighbours, guilty of manifold omissions and neglect on this score. Having now, in some measure, corrected the procedure on my own farm, I owe it to them to give in my experience. In these states, with but few exceptions, sheep have been considered as a stock able to shift for itself, to do without care, and without food, except what it picks from the fields, as well in winter as in summer; hence, every year poverty, and diseases arising from poverty, occasion a loss of lambs and furnish a miserable pittance of dry wool, half fallen off, in consequence of poverty and disease, and every four or five years, infection and deaths diminish our flocks by wholesale.

The following are the only three simple rules necessary to be observed, to give us and to preserve fine sheep and good wool.

Nurse your lambs when they first come into the world.

Support your sheep in good heart in all seasons while they live.

And do not suffer them to live longer than they can feed with industry and vigour.

The breeders should be put together, so that the lambs may begin to drop about the 10th of February; by this time the winter is broken up, and every day looks milder weather. Early lambs are of advantage, and with care, at this season, even ninety-five in an hundred may be saved. Where more than five per cent. is lost in lambs, there is neglect. With the double lambs, there may be readily raised, every year more lambs than there are ewes—To secure this care, let it be remembered, that "the eye of the master is the most sure." At this interesting period he should see his flock, at least once a day—and the man who attends his sheep, and who must be trusty and handy, should visit them at short intervals, throughout the day, and particularly early and late, during the time of yearning. Let there be prepared a small lot or paddock, near the common pen, and

shelters. In the paddock, let there be a shed or cover of some kind to keep off rain and snow, under which fix a parcel of little pens 5 or 6 feet square and three feet high, no matter how rough, and in number proportioned to your stock. Ten for one hundred ewes will be enough, for the purpose of confining a ewe and lamb occasionally.

A ewe goes twenty-one weeks, two or three days more or less. By having noted when the rams were put into the flock, it may be known when to expect the first lambs. Let the ewes be narrowly observed from this time, and as their bags spring, and indicate the approach of a birth, within two or three days, (to permit which to be easily observed, as well as for cleanliness, their tails should be all short) let them be put into the yearning paddock—To separate the ewes about to yearn, and to keep them separate from the flock for a few days after yearning, is best at all times; in cold weather, absolutely requisite.

The sheep is a foolish timid creature; any one of them is with difficulty restrained from following the flock. If the ewes at this season are all left in the common pasture, when the flock moves, a ewe that may have just dropped a lamb, and particularly a first lamb, is very apt to run after them, and leave her young to freeze or to starve. Again, in the midst of a flock, it often happens that a ewe, during the first day or two, by the crowding of others, and the frequent change of position, gets confused and doubtful as to their own lamb—and presently mistakes and disowns it. It is surprising to see what degree of cold a young lamb will bear, and how thrifty it becomes, if passed safely through the first forty-eight hours; during which time, and most particularly for the first twelve hours, they are liable if exposed to wet and cold, and if not licked and caressed by the ewe, to be frozen or starved to death. It is in this way, that nine tenths of the lambs lost do die.

In the yearning paddock, each ewe need not remain more than seven or eight days after yearning, and consequently no more than seven or eight days altogether, if carefully observed and put in at the right time. Thus it will not be crowded, and those that are there can the more readily receive the requisite care from the attendant. In open weather no care is necessary to the ewes in this paddock, but to give them access to the shed, and to feed them as the flock. If falling weather, or snow on the ground, the ewes on the eve of yearning, should be put each in one of the pens under the shed, on a little dry straw, and there kept with the lamb till it is two or three days old. If a ewe should not be fond of her lamb, or not own it, as it is called, confinement with it in one of those pens for a few days, will put all to rights. Particular attention should be paid to the bags of the ewes—and if found to swell and harden, as they will sometimes do, from a great flow of milk, a little before or after the lamb comes, they should be carefully drawn, once or twice a day, and brought to by a soft hand. It sometimes happens that for want of notice to this

simple fact, the lamb starves and dies in sight of plenty, without being able to touch a single drop.

Instances of this have come within my own knowledge. Care should be taken to keep the tails of the lambs clean at the vent for a few days after birth, as they are apt about that time to get coked there, from the glutinous nature of the first excrements—I would recommend that the tails of all the lambs of both sexes, be cut off within two or three inches of the root—in all for cleanliness; and as to the ewes there are additional reasons, one of which has been before given. This operation may be performed at eight days old, if mild weather, or as soon as the frost is over; at the same time the mark on the ear may be put on. As to the castration, unless in very cold or very hot weather, it is safe at any time, in skilful hands, from the age of eight days to three months, and the sooner the more safe—The lambs should be weaned at from four or five months old, at that age they can shift for themselves; and time should be given to the ewes to recruit, before they are put to propagate. As the season otherwise suits well, I make my lambs set for Independence on the 4th of July, in remembrance of our great national weaning—My overseer, who is an old soldier of those days, says it brings good luck. I do not suffer my ewe lambs to go to the ram until they are in their second year.

(To be continued.)

REMONSTRANCE OF THE VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF FREDERICKSBURG.

Read in Congress, January 3d, 1820, and referred to the COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

To the Congress of the United States:

The remonstrance of the Virginia Agricultural Society of Fredericksburg, against the attempts, now making by our Domestic Manufacturers and their friends, to increase the duties upon Foreign goods, wares, and merchandize, respectfully represents:

That it is the indisputable right of every free people to petition and remonstrate, either individually, or collectively, not only against grievances actually inflicted, but against such also, as are either seriously threatened or meditated.

That hostility, resulting from true republican principles, to partial taxation, exclusive privileges, and monopolies, created by law, was the primary cause of our glorious and ever memorable revolution.

That, although most of us are only the descendants of those patriots who achieved that revolution by the lavish expenditure of their treasure and their blood; yet, that we inherit enough of their spirit to feel equal aversion to similar oppressions; at the same time, that we confidently trust, neither we, nor our sons after us, will ever be found backward or reluctant in offering up at the shrine of national good and national happiness any sacrifices, however great, which their promotion and preservation may obviously and necessarily require. But we have been taught to believe, that a parental government—a government founded upon the immutable and sacred principles of truth, justice, and liberty; if she required sacrifices at all, from those whom she is so solemnly bound to protect, would make them such as should operate equally upon every member of the community.

That we view with great concern, both nationally and individually, certain late attempts on the part of

various descriptions of domestic manufacturers, to induce your Honorable Body to increase the duties upon imports; already so high, as to amount, upon many articles, nearly to a prohibition. The increased cost upon some of these, may truly be designated a tax upon knowledge, if not a bounty to ignorance; such for example, as the duty upon books in foreign languages, and upon philosophical, mathematical, surgical, and chemical instruments.

That, although these attempts are sustained under the plausible pretext of "promoting National Industry," they are calculated, (we will not say in design, but certainly in effect,) to produce a tax highly impolitic in its nature, partial in its operation, and oppressive in its effects: a tax, in fact, to be levied principally on the great body of Agriculturists, who constitute a large majority of the whole American people, and who are the chief consumers of all foreign imports.

That such a tax would be a flagrant violation of the soundest and most important principles of political economy; among which, we deem the following to be incontrovertibly true:—that, as the interests of dealers and consumers necessarily conflict with each other, the first always aiming to narrow, whilst the latter, who form the majority of every nation, as constantly endeavour to enlarge competition; by which enlargement alone, extravagant prices and exorbitant profits are prevented. It is the duty of every wise and just government to secure the consumers against both exorbitant profits and extravagant prices, by leaving competition as free and open as possible.

That in this way alone, can the benefits of good government be equalized among the various orders and classes of society, the prosperity and happiness of which depend, not upon immunities, privileges, and monopolies, granted to one class or order at the expense of another; but upon the unfettered exercise of talent, skill, and industry, directed and employed in whatever manner, and upon whatsoever objects of pursuit each individual may select for himself: provided, always, that such object be not incompatible with the public good: for so to use your own rights as not to injure the rights of others, is not less the dictate of common sense and common honesty, than it is a cardinal maxim of all legitimate government.

That National Industry is best promoted by leaving every member of society free, to apply his labour and his knowledge according to his own choice, exempt from all restraints, but such as the public good requires; and burdened with no tax but such as shall be both impartial, and as moderate as the exigencies of the state will permit.

That, according to the natural progress of society in every country favourably situated for agriculture, the class of Manufacturers is the last to spring up; but that it will necessarily do so, as soon as either the natural or artificial wants of the people create a demand for their labors.

That any legislative interference, to force either this or any other class into existence by the strong arm of power, exercised in levying taxes to support the forced class, contrary to the wishes and interests of the other members of the community, is not only bad policy, but oppression; because taxes of any kind to be rightfully levied, should be equal; and should be imposed, not for the emolument of any one portion of society at the expense of the rest, but for the support of government alone.

That, either to exclude Foreign Manufactures, or to tax them very heavily, under a notion of improving those of domestic fabric, lessens the profits of agriculture; diminishes the public revenue, either by augmenting the number of smugglers, or by enabling the domestic manufacturer to pocket that sum which otherwise would go into the Public Treasury under the form of an import duty; and at the same time secures to him the power of practising upon the community the double imposition of deteriorating his goods, and selling them at a higher price; because that competition which constitutes the only security for skill, industry, and moderate prices, is either entirely removed, or so limited as not to be felt.

"That all free trade, of whatever description, must be a mutual benefit to the parties engaged in it," notwithstanding the profits arising therefrom may be somewhat equally divided: because, by free trade alone, can supply and demand (the two circumstances upon which trade of every kind depends) be kept nearly equal to each other.

That, instead of struggling against the dictates of reason and nature, and madly attempting to produce every thing at home, countries should study to direct their labors to those departments of industry for which their situation and circumstances are best adapted."

"That the use of capital should be left, as much as possible to the care of those to whom it belongs, because they will be most likely to discover in what line it can be employed to the greatest advantage."

And that the best regulated and happiest communities are those wherein the various trades, professions, and callings, enjoy equal rights, and contribute equally to the necessary support of their common government; but that if any one should be thought to have superior claims to the fostering care of the National Legislature, it should be "the tillers of the earth, the fountain head of all wealth, of all power, and of all prosperity."

The sagacious and patriotic Franklin has said, and we believe he never uttered a better or wiser remark, "that most of the statutes or acts, edicts, arrests, and placards, of parliaments, princes, and states, for regulating, directing, or restraining trade, have, we think, been either political blunders, or jobs obtained by artful men, for private advantage, under pretence of public good."

Your petitioners have thus freely, but respectfully, endeavored to represent to your Honorable Body, their views of a policy which you are so importunately urged to adopt; but upon which we should have said nothing, having due confidence both in your willingness and ability to protect the great landed interests of our country, had we not been apprehensive, that silence might possibly be construed into consent; if all who are attached to those interests had forborne to speak, when so clamorously and powerfully assailed. To guard against the possibility of misapprehension, we take this occasion to say, that we are incapable of feeling any thing like enmity towards either manufacturers, or any other useful description of our fellow citizens; but heartily wish them all the success to which their skill and industry may entitle them, in whatsoever way applied; provided always, that such application be not made at our risk, and continued at our cost. We will go farther, and pledge ourselves to prefer whatever they may manufacture, at any time that they will make the price and the quality the same with the quality and price of similar articles of foreign fabric. To give more for any article simply because it is made at home, may suit the feelings of political enthusiasm, but it can never promote the interests either of individuals or of nations. To buy as cheap as you can, no matter where, and to sell as dear, is the maxim which should regulate the commerce of both; for if competition be left free, neither can be exorbitant in their demands. We ask no tax upon manufacturers for our benefit; neither do we desire any thing of Government to enable us to cultivate the soil, as profitably as we could wish, but to leave us free, so far as it depends on them, to carry our products to the best market we can find and to purchase what we want in return, on the best terms that we can, either at home or abroad. We will ever support the government of our choice in all just and rightful undertakings, both with our fortunes and our lives; but we will never voluntarily contribute to maintain either manufacturers, or any other class of citizens by the payment of unequal and partial taxes; by awarding to them exclusive privileges, or by sustaining them in the enjoyment of oppressive monopolies, which are ultimately to grind both us and our children after us, "into dust and ashes."

All which is respectfully submitted.

Signed, by order of the meeting,

JAMES M. GARNETT, *President.*

WM. F. GRAY, *Secretary.*

"At a Meeting of the VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, of Fredericksburg, convened at the Farmer's Hotel, in the town of Fredericksburg, on the 29th December, 1819, by a special call of the President:—

"A Remonstrance, addressed to the Congress of the United States against the proposed imposition of additional duties on the importation of foreign goods, wares, and merchandize, was submitted and read, and, after consideration, it was

"RESOLVED, That the said Remonstrance be adopted as expressing the sentiments of this Society.

"RESOLVED, that the said Remonstrance be signed by the President and Secretary of the Society, and transmitted to the Honorable PHILIP P. BARBOUR, with a request that he will cause the same to be laid before Congress."—Extract from the minutes.

WM. F. GRAY, *Secretary.*

FREDERICKSBURG, January 1, 1820.

SIR: In pursuance of an order of the Agricultural Society of Fredericksburg, I herewith transmit you a copy of a Remonstrance, which has been adopted by that Society, with a request that you will lay the same before the Congress of the United States.

With much respect,

Your ob't. serv't,

W. F. GRAY.

To the Hon. PHILIP P. BARBOUR,

House of Representatives, Washington City.

From the London Monthly Magazine, October, 1819.

VINEGAR FROM WOOD.

This new and useful article of commerce we wish to point out to our readers, as not yet sufficiently known, and but lately brought to great perfection. It is made in the large way at an establishment at Battersia, belonging to Dr. Bollman, 139, Sloane-street, Chelsea, of one uniform strength of fifty degrees by the new excise autometer. It is made under the inspection of excise-officers, pays a regular duty agreeable to its strength, by a late act of Parliament upon vinegar, and is sent out to purchasers with excise permits, expressing the strength and that the duty has been paid; this gives to purchasers every requisite security. The quality of this acid has been examined by many eminent chemists, for individual information; and by Dr. Hume, of Long Acre, for the Government Victualling Office; and by Dr. Chambers, of Dover-street, for the East India Company; and it is pronounced to be pure acetous acid, perfectly free from sulphuric and all other mineral acids, and from mucilaginous, earthy and metallic impurities. It is therefore, when diluted, perfectly wholesome with food, and may be used for all the purposes of vinegar with perfect propriety and safety. To merchants, chemists, vinegar dealers, dyers, calico-printers, picklers of fish, &c. this concentrated article will save considerable expense in freight and carriage, as it occupies six or seven times less bulk than common

or distilled vinegar; and by applying directly to the maker, it will be sent to them at any place, and regularly supplied, at a very moderate price; and also to large traders and consumers of this article, the great profit now made by its intermediate dealers will be saved. The acid of the above strength admits of being diluted with seven waters, or mixed, one part of acid with seven parts of water, which will reduce it to the strength of common distilled vinegar: it is then well qualified for pickling vegetables and fish; the latter, particularly, is found to be preserved longer with this vinegar, and to eat firmer and better, than with any other. This acid is bright and colourless as water; but it readily takes any colour or flavour, and when coloured and flavoured, to give it a fruit taste. At the establishment, it makes an excellent vinegar for table use, when diluted with five or six waters, and then its colour is like white wine: it has not the malt flavour, but is superior to it in taste, with this additional quality, that it will keep for any length of time, in any climate, without losing its strength, or becoming ropy and thick, or mothery, as it is generally termed. At sea it is particularly useful for the scurvy; and for all medical purposes it answers the uses of the best distilled vinegar, and makes the *ammonia acetal* in great perfection. Also for surgical purposes, where often a more concentrated vinegar is required that is found in the shops, it is eminently useful.

FROM THE PLOUGH BOY.

SIR,

The following extract from the American Journal of Science, conducted by Professor Silliman, may be useful to the Canal Commissioners, as well as to the others employed on our great canals.

"ON A METHOD OF AUGMENTING THE FORCE OF GUNPOWDER."

Extract of a Letter to the Editor, from Col. G. Gibbs.

"I employed last year a man in blowing rocks, and having seen an account of a method of substituting a portion of quick lime for a part of the gunpowder usually employed, I was induced to make a number of experiments upon it. I now send you the results.

"SUNSWICK FARMS, Oct. 19, 1817. I certify that, having been employed by Col. Gibbs in blasting rocks on his farm, I, by his orders, made use of a composition of one part of quick lime and two parts of gunpowder, and uniformly found the same charge answer equally as well with the like quantity of gunpowder. I made upwards of fifty blasts in this manner, as well as several hundred in the usual way, and can therefore depend upon the accuracy of this statement. I found, however, when the powder lime was mixed the day before, that the effect was diminished. It should always be used the same day it is mixed.

T. POMEROY.

"This preparation was generally made in the morning, put in a bottle and well corked, to prevent the access of the external air."

The rationale of the process Col. Gibbs supposes to be owing to the desiccation of the gunpowder by the lime. The attraction of moisture by gunpowder is stated by Rees, to be upwards of 16 per cent. "I presume, therefore," says Col. Gibbs, "that the lime, which in its caustic state has a great affinity to water, attracts a portion of it from the powder, and leaves it in a state of dryness best fitted for inflammation. But if the lime were to remain too long mixed with the gunpowder, it would probably attach the water of chrySTALLIZATION of the nitre, and according to Count Rumford's idea, destroy a great part of its power." "It is well known that after a few discharges a cannon becomes heated, and the range is much greater as well as the recoil. The charge of powder is therefore reduced about one quarter, to produce the original effects. Col. Gibbs then states his opinion, that the increased effect of the powder is caused by its desiccation by the heat of the cannon. I have lately seen in a newspaper a method of increasing the force of gunpowder by adding to it a portion of dry saw dust. This operation probably must be accounted for on Col. Gibbs's principles. Perhaps other substances which would absorb moisture from gunpowder would have a good effect.

W.

From a new publication, entitled the Annual Philosophical Magazine, Number 1—Printed in New York by J. Seymour, we extract the following queries.

The Book-binder, as if to disgust and prejudice the public against the work in the outset, has deranged the pages as much as possible, and inserted a moderate portion of the work twice. *Edit. Amer. Far.*

QUERIES.

I.—Clouds are sometimes seen moving in one direction, while others, either above or below them, are moving in an opposite direction. Required the reason?

II.—What is the cause and consistence of the ignis fatuus, commonly known by the name of Will-with-a-wisp, or Jack-with-a-lantern?

III.—Has the wind any effect in retarding or accelerating the velocity of sound? And if so, what is it?

IV.—What is the most probable cause of that phenomenon in nature, called a water spout?

V.—It is found by experience, that gypsum, or plaster of Paris, loses its fertilizing properties on Long-Island, and the sea-coast. Query, the reason? Is it, on the contrary, affirmed by some, that if the farmer, on, or near the sea-coast, would apply four or five times the usual quantity, it would then prove beneficial. Can this be true?

VI.—By Mr. R. Tagart, New-York.—Required the reason why storms are generally prevalent about the times of the equinoxes.

VII.—What reason can be given why the

sun's rays should always prevent a fire from blazing up into a flame, and sometimes quite extinguish it, especially when passing through a glass window?

VIII.—Why do aromatic flowers emit a greater scent in warm weather, when wet with a shower of rain than when they are dry?

IX.—Required, the most convincing proof of the soul's immortality?

X.—Had the heathen world any glimmering of light of a Redeemer, as was given to Abraham and his offspring?

XI.—As our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, was entirely the pattern, or mirror of humility, and the "Prince of Peace," how then are we to reconcile his own words with this, when he says, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I come not to send peace but a sword?" Matthew, 10th chapter, 34th verse.

XII.—In the ninth chapter of Genesis, mention is made of the bow in the cloud, which we understand to be the rain-bow, then appointed by God as a token of his covenant, that the world should not again be overwhelmed by a deluge. Shall we thence infer that there was no rain-bow before the flood?

OCCASIONAL EXTRACTS,

FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

MR. SKINNER,

I send to you 16 Turnips, two each of eight varieties, not on account of their size, but to show a perfect character of each variety, for I have of them more than twice as large. How they obtained the size they have is truly wonderful, for in the article of rain we stand thus:—27th of August, a clever rain, 25th of September, a slight shower, 29th a good rain, 17th of November, a slight rain.

I have long desired to obtain a few seed of the true Rhubarb (*Rheum Palmatum*.)

Could you not obtain from Spain, the Rope

* The *Rheum Palmatum* or true rhubarb, is a native of Thibet mountains in Tartary, and was introduced in England about 60 years since—where the chief obstacle, in obtaining rhubarb, of a quality equal to that imported, is said to consist in the difficulty of curing the root—but this difficulty was in 1810 nearly overcome, and no doubt will be entirely surmounted by further experiment.

It is said that at the time above mentioned, 200,000 pounds sterling was annually paid for imported rhubarb; but a great part of this must certainly have been exported.

The plant arrives at its most perfect state in 6 or 7 years, when every 5 pounds of green root will give one pound of rhubarb.

Rhubarb plants are set out at 5 or 6 feet distance and some roots have been known in England to weigh 70 pounds.

In 1798, Mr. Jones, of Fish-street-hill, London, obtained the premium of 30 guineas, for having raised and planted out 3000 plants of true rhubarb. If any subscriber wishes, we will give further account of its culture, &c.—*Editor.*

Grass (Meleca Retuns) called by the Spaniards, Sparta (Stipa Tenecissima), grows on sand hills—it would be valuable on the sands of both our shores, and in the Carolinas and Georgia. What can you tell us about fish ponds, as to the method of constructing the Dam and gates, to hold and draw off the water? I have for many years, paid strict attention to my wood lands, and now pride myself upon a luxuriant growth of young trees, for much of which I feel myself indebted to the crows. My Yellow and White Pines, which at some period, will furnish masts and spars for our navy, have been planted by my own hands and are very flourishing; but in the nut kinds, I have been unfortunate. In order to give appearance to this estate, I straighten the crooked and irregular clearings, and if I have to clear some fresh land, I have to throw out some which is cleared. In 1817, I planted five pecks of Shell-bark Hickory; mice and squirrels did not leave me more than one in eighty—this last Spring, made a second trial; I planted six pecks of chesnuts carefully rolled in tar, and separated by plaster; about 700 growing. Squirrels again. I have now three bushels of Chesnuts, barrellled up with alternate layers of dry sand. These shall be planted in February and March, in boxes six inches deep, settled in the ground—in the Spring of 1821 (as I am at present only in my sixty-second year) I will transplant with the dibble as we plant cabbages.

I have cut the enclosed† from an old newspaper. Can you not rouse the Baltimoreans to follow the example of New-York, Philadelphia and Charleston (S. C.)? Your climate affords a decided advantage. But WHY NOT A GREAT BOTANIC GARDEN AT WASHINGTON, one acre for each state?

My Cork tree, five years from the acorn is more than eight feet high; an English live, oak, and a pestachio nut tree, flourish equal to any tree of the forests. I conclude by assuring you, that I am greatly pleased with your paper, which I hope may prove as profitable to you, as it is useful to our country.

Respectfully, your

Ob't servant, F.

† FOR THE TELEGRAPH.

Mr. Dobbin,

Permit me to express through the medium of your useful paper, the infinite satisfaction which has been produced by the repeated hints, recently published; tending to delineate the many advantages which would be derived from a Botanic Institution, and although I know that our impressions on such occasions are generally accompanied with vain imaginations—yet in this case, was a proper Botanist to come forward, and by the exercise of his skill, accompanied with public or private support, I have no doubt, that in time, the contemplated garden would be so far perfected, that the patronizers would realize what would surpass even the most sanguine expectation. I therefore wish, for the innocent amusement of the present, and instruction of the future generations—that a gentleman who has been taught Botany would tender the public his services—for I perceive the subject is becoming unceasingly the topic of the day, particularly amongst those who have had an opportunity of scientific improvement.

I am sir, Your most obedient servant, P.
March 30, 1805.

P. S. I enclose you a receipt for Cyder Wine—I have drank of it 8 years old, which could not be distinguished from Tokay 50 years old.

RECEIPT FOR AMERICAN TOKAY.

A barrel of good new Cidar from the press. Let it ferment, carefully brushing off the froth as it comes out of the bung hole. When the fermentation ceases, draw it off and add as much honey as will give it strength enough to bear an egg; return it to the barrel, which should be first washed clean. It will now undergo a second fermentation, which must be treated as the first, and when that ceases, add half a gill of French or peach brandy, for every gallon. Bung it tight and so let it remain until the March following, when in a calm, clear and dry day, it should be bottled.

F.

MR. SKINNER—The necessity to husbandmen of a knowledge of what may be called Agricultural Chemistry, is every day becoming more evident; independent of the advantage of becoming acquainted with the nature of the soils he has to cultivate, it enables the farmer to ascertain the quantity of nutritive matter existing in what he grows. He is thus, without the process of actual feeding, capable of determining what is the best food for his stock, and he is at once constituted judge of what grains, grasses, roots, &c. is most to his advantage to cultivate, without running the risk of disappointment, which he cannot avoid, if he be governed by most opinions promulgated on agriculture, the authors of which are too often influenced by prejudices contracted in various ways, which blind them to the merits or demerits of what they oppose or advocate. But I am not insensible of the advantages derived from works on agriculture, and I would not be understood, that Agricultural Chemistry should supercede attention to what has been and will be written on husbandry, but that it should answer as a test of the correctness of the practice wished to be inculcated by authors. The interests of agriculture have been much advanced by many who have written, and by none more than by the worthy and philanthropic sage of Belmont. Judge Peters is incapable of writing any thing on farming which will not benefit the agricultural community, and we have very much to regret, that the medium through which his communications reach us, should deem it best to keep us so long ignorant of them, and other valuable papers. In this respect the Agricultural Society of Albemarle, Va. has given a laudable example, by the use they have determined to make of your valuable paper.

Agriculturists possess too little enterprise and disinterestedness—they are willing that a few individuals should be at the labor and expense of all improvements in

the science. They thereby justly incur the imputation of dullness or parsimony; while those whose zeal and benevolence induce them to experiment, and publish the results, are too seldom awarded the deference of an attentive perusal.

In a former communication, I offered my brethren of the plough some remarks on the value of the Ruta Baga, which has claimed much of their attention, as an article both for domestic use and for market. I shall continue my efforts in this way, however feeble they may be. I hope they may induce others more capable to investigate for themselves, by which they can confirm or confute my observations, as they are correct or fallacious.

I have acquired a little smattering of chemistry, and have analysed the cobs of corn, and the small yellow pumpkin; the results are, that corn cobs contain one-twentieth their weight of nutritive matter, and pumpkins one-twenty-fifth their weight of matter nutritive to animals. If my analysis be accurate, it will then appear that farmers, generally, are in the habit of throwing away an article, (cobs) preferable, as food for stock, to common turnips, and nearly equal to Swedish turnips.

I should be gratified if some of your correspondents would inform me, the cost of oyster-shells per bushel—the difference in bulk before and after burning—the quantity of fuel necessary, and the most economical method of burning them, as well as the best mode of applying the lime to land.

A SUBSCRIBER.

[The very useful hints and information, which have been given by a "Subscriber," and the benevolent spirit which manifestly prompts him, give him a claim upon those of our readers who have it in their power to answer whatever he asks; and we trust they will not hesitate to reciprocate his good offices. It is by this mutual interchange of opinions, and free communication of what experience has taught us, that the common stock of human knowledge accumulates—that our errors are rectified, our sufferings meliorated, and our social comforts are promoted.—EDIT.]

Virginia, December 12th.

Gabriel Plat, in his discovery of hidden treasures, mentions an implement called from its use an Eradicator, on my recommendation a friend has used it, and informs me that it answers well; it must save a great deal of labour in grubbing up roots, besides doing the work more effectually.—On the other side, I send you the description of it, for publication.

THE ERADICATOR

Is a very large and strong three pronged fork, which as a lever, by the assistance of a block is able to tear up any thing. The bigness of it is so much more than a dung fork, which it most resembles, that it seems improper to call it by such a name; whereof, I have given it another. It is to be thus constructed; the

handle must be a long thick beam, its length fifteen or sixteen feet, and its thickness, such as will keep it firm against a great deal of force; the tines or prongs should be twenty inches long, notched at the sides, and a little leaning upwards; and they must be joined to a strong shoulder of iron, with proper fastenings for the end of the pole, this being carefully fastened on, the person who works it must fasten a rope six or eight feet long to the other end, and take with him a thick block of wood, and a heavy wooden beetle or maul. When he comes to the first shrub, or root, he must force in the three prongs, slanting into the ground, so that they go under the root, and the top of the pole be somewhat higher than his head; then with good strokes of the beetle, he must drive it well in, till the tines are quite in the ground; he is then to lay the block under the pole, near where the tines are; this will raise its top ten or twelve feet high; and he is then to lay hold of the rope and pull with all his force. Those who know what the effect of the lever is, will be sensible no root can keep its place against this; it will tear up the most firm, and in some kinds will draw out fibres of seven feet in length.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1820.

Doctor Muse's memoir, on the *modus operandi* of Plaster of Paris, read before the Agricultural Society at Annapolis, and ordered to be printed in the American Farmer, will be presented, if possible in our next number.

The 5th number on Hedging, from friend Kirk of Delaware, ought to have appeared in this paper, but it was found impracticable to get the engraving done in time. Speaking of engraving, we owe an apology to our readers for the one exhibited in our last.—If we had been aware of the clumsy style in which it was executed, it would not have been suffered to disfigure our columns.—It is but matter of justice to Mr. Throop, the young gentleman who usually engraves for the Farmer, to say, that it was not done by him—it was furnished by the Patentee.

Further Extracts from a Compendious Dictionary of the Veterinary Art.

[Continued from No. 31, p. 246.]

CASTING. A term used for throwing down a horse or bullock. The mode of casting a horse has been minutely described and illustrated by a plate in the fourth volume of the author's *TREATISE ON VETERINARY MEDICINE*, where all the principal operations of farriery are likewise described; but the method commonly practised for throwing a bullock is somewhat different.

Take a long rope, double it, and tie a knot about a yard from the end, so as to leave a

bow of sufficient size to go round the bullock's neck, which being put on, the two ends are to be brought between the fore-legs and round the hind pasterns, then back again and through the bow. By standing in front of the animal, and drawing up the ropes quickly, so that his hind-legs may be brought up towards his chest, he is easily thrown down; while in this situation, the ropes are to be secured, and then any operation may be safely performed.

CATAPLASM, or POULTICE. This application, when designed to promote suppuration in a swelling, or remove inflammation occasioned by a blow, is best made by mixing together three parts of fine bran and one part of linseed meal: pouring a sufficient quantity of boiling water upon the mixture, to bring it to the consistence of a thin paste; and confining it to the part in such a way, that no swelling shall be caused by the bandages. A poultice should always be renewed once in twelve hours; for when it approaches towards dryness, it tends rather to aggravate than remove the disease for which it has been employed. In the accidents which usually occur to horses, there is generally difficulty found in securing poultices, without making so much pressure by the bandages employed as to cause swelling, and rather defeat than promote the intention for which they are used: on all such occasions it is best to trust to a frequent application of warm water, or any thing in the form of fomentation; such as a decoction of herbs, or things commonly employed for the purpose. One thing should always be observed in the application of poultices; that is, the method by which they are fastened; perhaps there is nothing better for the purpose in diseases of the lower parts of the limbs, where they are most commonly required, than a worsted stocking, kept up by the list or flannel bandage, &c.

CATARACT. An incurable disease of the horse's eyes, consisting of an opacity, either total or partial, of a part which is naturally transparent. I call this disease incurable; because though we can, as is often done in the human subject, remove it by an operation, such an imperfection of sight would remain as to render the horse more dangerous to ride than if he were quite blind. Some reasons, however, may be adduced for occasionally attempting the removal of cataract; but I fear that any attempt of the kind would generally prove fruitless.

I cannot, however, dismiss this article without observing, that the *partial* cataract sometimes met with, in which there are only one or more small opaque spots in the pupil, so situated as not to prevent materially the admission of light to the retina, is not of so much consequence as it is often supposed to be. As the eye is so important an organ to the horse, so liable to injury, and when diseased renders him so useless, we may say dangerous, to the rider, the subject will be more amply treated of in another part.

CATARRH. This is more familiarly known by the term cold, and is a disease which happens more frequently perhaps than any other. It is generally caused by exposing a horse to a current of air, or to a cold wind or rain; and is more likely to be produced if the animal has been previously heated by exercise, or accustomed to a warm stable and warm clothing. The most common symptoms are cough, dullness of the eyes, which are sometimes inflamed and watery, and want of appetite either for food or water. In more severe cases the throat becomes sore, so as to render swallowing difficult; and sometimes the glands under the jaws, as well as those under the ears, are swollen. These symptoms are commonly succeeded by a discharge of matter from the nostrils, which is generally beneficial. In slight cases there is scarcely any alteration in the pulse or appetite; but sometimes there is a considerable degree of fever. In the first volume of my *FARRIERY* I have recommended early bleeding, and observed, that if it is delayed until a discharge from the nostrils has taken place it seldom proves beneficial. I have here however to remark that subsequent experience has proved to me, that whenever the disease is severe, the cough very troublesome, and especially if the pulse is unusually quick, bleeding will afford much relief, however considerable the discharge from the nostrils may be; and that when bleeding is employed at an early period of the complaint, it should not be done sparingly, unless there be such a degree of weakness as to render it evidently improper, which is very seldom the case; for by taking off four or five quarts of blood at once, we save much trouble, and render the disease mild and of short duration. Should the symptoms not abate in two or three days, the operation is to be repeated. If the bowels are open, the only medicine necessary is the fever powder or ball twice a day, composed of

Nitre, one ounce,

Emetic tartar, one drachm and a half, or two drachms.

But it must be observed, that whenever there is any degree of soreness of the throat, much harm may be done by endeavouring to give either a ball or drench, particularly the latter. In such cases the medicine should be put into the horse's mash; but if it appears to prevent him from eating it, let the medicine be omitted. (SEE QUINSY.) If the horse is costive, or even if the dung is at all hard, give a laxative. The head should be steamed with hot bran mash, and kept warm by means of a hood; the legs also should be kept warm by rubbing and flannel bandages. The horse must be treated rather carefully after the disease appears to have been in a great measure removed, or it may return, and a chronic cough will probably be the consequence of such indiscretion. Catarrh is sometimes epidemic, that is, appears to attack horses in every part of the country without any known cause: this will be treated of under the head INFLUENZA.